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June 20, 2011

Federal Communications Commission
Chairman Genachowski
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

On behalf of the 900,000 union members of the Illinois AFL-CIO, we write today in strong support of the AT&T-T-Mobile merger.

This merger will combine spectrum to bring additional high-speed mobile broadband to Illinois. Mobile broadband is critical to fuel our state's economy and continue to provide additional union jobs that support working families.

The proposed acquisition will quickly increase broadband availability to cover 97 percent of all Americans, making significant progress toward reaching the President's goal of connecting all Americans to the internet in this digital age.

Importantly, this merger is essential to bring 4G LTE access to rural Illinois, bringing new fuel to the local economies in these rural areas and the state as a whole.

From a union perspective, the AT&T acquisition of T-Mobile provides a unique opportunity for working men and women. This merger will give 20,000 T-Mobile employees the option of union representation, meaning that thousands of workers and their families could enjoy the benefits of collective bargaining like higher wages and benefits and better training programs.

The proposed AT&T acquisition of T-Mobile is good for broadband, good for our economy and good for union workers. We urge the Federal Communications Commission to support this important transaction.

Sincerely,



Michael T. Carrigan
President

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